

CHAIRSHOTS

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"PUTTING WRESTLING BACK IN THE CLOSET-WHERE IT BELONGS!"

WHAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS WATCHING!

WWF





SHOOTKICK

by Jeff Bowdren

This month's SHOOTKICK goes to that balding wonder, Mr. Journalistic integrity himself, Bill Apter. I refer you to the most recent issue of Pro Wrestling Illustrated and his "top 500". What the hell is Bill trying to prove to us? I mean besides the fact that he has saved every Observer over the last few years, or until he came up with 500 names, which ever came first. I wonder how many of those guys Bill has actually seen wrestle-even on t.v.! The other thing I love is how he managed to include guys who've been retired for a decade. I refer to his granting of top 500 status to Charlie Fulton. Charlie Fulton!! I haven't seen hide nor hair of that guy since America was (gasp!!) BREAK DANCIN! He also includes Giant Baba in the list, describing him as something to the effect of older, slower but still scary because of his size. Is it any wonder that most casual wrestling fans know nothing about Japanese wrestling? The only wrestlers Bill ever talks about are Baba & Inoki! Hey Bill, I hate to rain on your fantasy parade, but there's a virtual plethora of wrestling talent, top 500 talent at that, in Japan and Mexico. I realize that, bidness being bidness, its probably too much to expect many articles on the Japanese or Mexican wrestlers, but c'mon! Your doing a listing of 500 wrestlers-you are allowed to acknowledge a few foreign wrestlers. Hell, I'm surprised you didn't mention a dead guy! ("David Von Erich: He's been gone for almost 10 years now, but that Iron Claw is still an amazingly effective weapon!") Hey Bill! Throw us hardcores a bone! No foreign wrestlers! Xenophobia reigns at the offices of P.W.I. Here's a boot to your bald head for your troubles.....

The recent history of the UWF in the Observer was excellent, as well as informative. It also brought back some great memories of my trip to Japan in late 1987 with Meltzer. As with any wrestling trip, many of the great memories are out of the ring. Like for instance: getting to Japan and finding out that neither Riki Choshu nor Akira Maeda-my two favorite wrestlers in the world at that point-would be on the tour. Something to do With a SHOOTKICK...Talking, talking and more talking with the likes of Terry & Dory Funk, Bruiser Brody, Dick Murdoch and Terry Gordy. All interesting for entirely different reasons...Standing there and witnessing while a totally oblivious Kevin Von Erich asked him if "he knew that kay fabe writer from California"-I almost died....The infamous story about the Von Erich's and the cat-too grisly to be mentioned here....Somehow, someway, by the grace of only God, making it thru the Tokyounairport and getting on a connecting flight to Nagoya-I still don't know how I did it...Getting up the next morning and ordering eggs, toast and orange juice-then realizing I spent \$15 for breakfast...Lesson #1 if you ever go to Japan-never eat hotel food...Getting into every building we went to for free by holding up our cameras and notepads and yelling "American Press, American Press!".... The concession stand at the All-Japan Women's card-still the best I've ever seen and the standard by which all others will ever be judged by-and that was six years ago folks...Seeing Abdullah the Butcher on the front page of the sports section... Sleeping on the floor of Wally Yamaguchi's house and being colder than I'd ever been in my entire life...Until two nights later when we were waiting for the bullet train....Dave Meltzer harassing virtually every teenage girl he saw by asking them if they knew who Chigusa was...Kevin Von Dipshit's death wish challenge to Nobuhiko Takada during a spot show-"Shoot your shit, motherfucker!"-nice talk for a fine young Christian youth-The cat story-NAH, I'm sorry, its just too gross....Everyone mistaking Dave for Chris Benoit-funny, I always thought he was supposed to look like Pillman...Having my bags searched by airport security that acted like the S.S. while the guy in front of me, that's right, the one wearing (I'm not making this up) a FIDEL CASTRO t-shirt was waved onto the plane.... Working (?) a match inside the ring in Wally's basement and having Dave tell me I was already better than Ivan Putski....

NOTES: Yawn(Zzzzzzz...)Someone wake me in time for the WCW funeral-now I see their not even running a show on Thanksgiving in the Omni-that seems downright blasphemous!...CHAIRSHOTS reader Bob "When the hell do I get a discount?" McKeon recently had the pleasure of meeting CHAIRSHOTS celebrity mother-n-waiting Lizette Lopez-who still hasn't blown the kid outta the womb yet-Bob sez to her "Baby, I've heard some stories about you!"-and I wondered how he got so lucky on those cruises-yeah, yeah I know Mitchell-there I go name dropping again....Later....

ARENA RAMBLINGS

BY
RON
LEMIEUX

I spent the last week on vacation up in New England and other than attending an indy in Manchester, NH, I pretty much was dry as far as wrestling was concerned. No TV, no sheets, no phone calls, etc. So one day I decided to walk into a newstand and check out the "mark" mags. Much to my surprise I found out that the sheet world has finally crossed the line into "markdom". There on page 7 of the October issue of Wrestling Main Event was a full page ad for the Pro Wrestling Torch. I thought newsletter material was something that shouldn't be put into mark's hands? Here are some of the claims the ad makes but you really should spend the \$2.95 yourself and check out the whole deal. "We leave the fake-real issues behind". What about young readers that never have questioned wrestling's authenticity? "Find out what happens before it airs." and "Know the real names of wrestlers." I'm sure people in the business were thrilled to read those comments. "900 lines read US for their news." Yeah, which ones? "Over five years building a reputation breaking the big stories first." I know one person who may dispute that. Oh and what a deal. Readers of this magazine can get 10 issues for \$9.95. That's 50% off the regular price. Yeah but what about a deal like that for the people who have been supporting you for those 5 years.? More power to you W.K. Next thing you know you'll be on the newstand.... You know the wrestling business is hurting when you open the latest copy of PWI and check out their top 500. Names like Garbage Man, Barney Mungia, Jimmy Lamb, and Richard Montana grace their ratings. Even ex Miami Dolphin star Kim Bokamper is listed. His mini bio says he's a regular tag partner of Jim Krick..... Tedo Field, Scott and Steve Dickinson, and Jody Boynes were gracious enough to take me to that indy in N.H. We laughed our asses off the entire show. The only two names you may recognize were Freight Train Fulton and Bill Wilcox. Two real good young talents but too bad they didn't work with each other. Funniest thing was a contest listed in the program. It read, "Don't forget to enter your child in the UWA ringrat contest (10 years old and under). Your child can win a chance to go backstage and meet all the UWA favorites and be the ringrat for a match." Does Mel Phillips work for this group or what. I guarantee the guy who came up with this has no clue what he's doing.... Quick results on Havoc and then some comments. Shlockmaster, Charlie Norris, and Ice Train over Harlemlless heat & Equalizer. 2) Paul Orndorff over Ricky Steamboat via count out when Assassin headbutted Ricky with an object in his mask. 3) Regal drew Bulldog. 4) Dustin Rhodes beat Steve Austin. 5) Nasties won the tag belts back from Scorpio and Bagwell. 6) Sting over Sid. 7) Rude beat Flair on a DQ. 8) Vader beat Cactus Jack in a Texas Death Match when Race hit Jack with a stun gun. Did Jesse and Schivone confuse you even more when talking about what Flair and Rude were fighting for. Who cares anymore... Steamboat-Orndorff was my second best match on the card. Lots better than their Clash title bout. Finish for Rhodes-Austin was the ultimate worst. Match was a little disappoint too... Crowd was on fire for the last minute of the tag title bout which was really good... Great comedy when Sid caught Rob Parker holding his foot down... The finish for Flair-Rude was so confusing. Did you catch that photog at ringside take the gimmick Flair was supposed to use from the ring. Jackie Crockett grabbed it back and gave it to Flair... Vader-Jack was just brutal. When they were fighting in the grave, wouldn't it have been wild if Undertaker came out...

Speaking of Undertaker, he'll be replacing Tatakka in the Survivor Series with the story being his injury he suffers to Borga this coming weekend on TV.... USA Network has renewed WWF programs through 1995.... There were some contract problems between Cactus and WCW which at one point threatened Jack's participation in Havoc but things were worked out in time.... 10/23 in Wakefile MA before 1,000 saw Vic Steamboat over Iron Sheik and Tony Atlas down Tommy Dreamer in the top two bouts. Double Trouble also worked the show as well as Tazmaniac.... Two weeks ago saw the last ICWA card at the Tampa Sportatorium in what is being billed as a new era in wrestling in Tampa officially starts 11/9 as every Tuesday night a group called Tri-Star wrestling will promote. The group is promoted by Patrick Shaffer who also started the roller derby up again in Tampa.... Ole Anderson's son Brian will debut on WCW TV next month. He'll topple Regal for the TV title his first match. Just kidding... I'm sure you've all heard about the Savage deal on the Jim Ross radio show. Well it seems that initially they tried to get Hogan on live with thoughts of attacking him right on the air while he was there. But Hogan saw it coming and declined to appear. What do you think these Memphis fans think about Jeff Jarrett's gimmick in the WWF. The second most popular wrestler in the territory now also a heel in the WWF. Those fans can't be dumber than Dallas-Ft. Worth fans can they?.... Time for me to check out. I'll leave you with this. If your house is on fire don't call Mitch Williams.

See ya,

Ron

Sucker Punch

BY BARRY ROSE



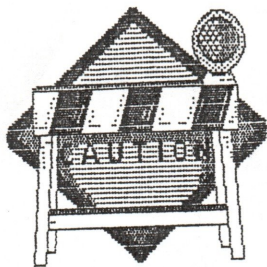
Well, its finally happened. "Shoot fighting" has finally made an impact in the United States. While much of the hardcore wrestling community has been raving about this style for years, most got their first look at this sheer brutality while viewing the recent UWFI pay-per-view. There probably isn't a whole lot that I could say about this event that both the Observer and Torch didn't already cover. I enjoyed it, even though I felt that the UWFI has put on better cards. I've always felt that Takada (and I know that Meltzer-San feels the same way because he's previously stated it in his sheet) could've been one of the top stars for any Japanese promotion, and I guess it just adds a sense of credibility to his reputation that he is the top Japanese star for the group. My favorite Shoot Fighting group was Maeda's UWF (the 1988-90 version). It was my introduction to this style, which was totally alien to me. I've seen most of their shows, and one match from September 24, 1988 really stands out in my mind. It was a match between UWFI star Tatsuo Nakano (no relation to Bull) and a rookie named Tsunehito Naito. It lasted all of two minutes and Naito literally got his ass kicked. Naito hit Nakano with a very loud open hand slap and Nakano, a real pit bull of a guy, got pissed. He landed some real stiff knees to Naito's chest and then put him a single leg boston crab. He leaned as far back as humanly possible, and Naito, who looked close to tears, cried out his submission. To see the move was unbelievable!!! Nakano had this guy twisted worse than Mark Madden's sexual preferences. I had a chance to talk to Norman "Black Magic" Smiley, who was in the dressing room when Naito returned from the ring. He remembered the match and said when Naito took off his boot in the dressing room, his ankle had swelled to twice it's normal size and that Naito was in an incredible amount of pain. Norman (sorry for the blatant name dropping-but hey, its in reference to the story) said he was scheduled to go on next and wondered if he could follow up the previous match, being that the audience knew that they had just seen something as close to a legitimate "shoot" as possible. To end the story, Naito, for one reason or another, never worked again. If you ever have the opportunity to see this match on tape, do it!!

I was talking to Bowdren (name drop number two) and we both agreed that Dave's Observer featuring the history of Shoot Fighting was an excellent issue, far surpassing anything else written on the subject. Meltzer pulls out a real winner of an issue every couple of months, whether its explaining the latest Titan legal troubles or (unfortunately) featuring an obit on a recently deceased worker. The Andre issue, from earlier this year, was something that every wrestling writer had to admire. It's issues like these that make us realize who is still number one in the wrestling sheet field (despite the false claims of others) and deservedly so. Kudos, Dave. And no, it's not butt kissing when it's true.

Y'know, we all bitch and complain about the wrestling business. CHAIRSHOTS is certainly guilty of that fact as any other sheet out there. But every so often something comes along that deserves praise. Last issue I bitched and moaned about this blacklist prick from Oklahoma, Jerry Jarrett's bullshit Torch interview, and Randy Savage's favorite wrestler, Hulk Hogan. Prepare yourself, as I'm actually going to compliment the WWF. I LOVE MONDAY NIGHT RAW!! Creative angles, good, quality matches, plus the talents of a woman I'd love to oil wrestle, Themis Klarides (or as Butch Bigelow would say-"The good looking broad on RAW"). Most of you know her as the official ring card girl. Hopefully, Vince will incorporate her into some kind of cat fight angle (the ones that guys like Steve Beverly are always bitching about) so we'll be able to see more of her. I may get hate mail for this, but I think she's even hotter than Missy (I'll bet ya J.Z. Travis'll write me now) or Medusa.

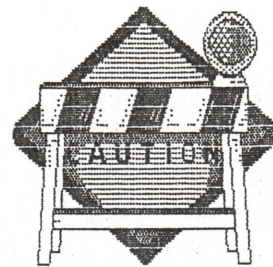
This CHAIRSHOTS thirty page deal we have planned is really starting to take serious shape. In addition to the stuff we've already told you about, Dave "FOREIGN AFFAIRS" Scherer will have a recap on international highlights from this year and cult hero and unofficial Mayor of Melbourne, FL-Klon, the man with one name will be making an appearance. Klon has been awfully silent since ARENA REPORT stopped publishing this year, so I know that many are eagerly awaiting what he'll have to offer. The complete lineup for this issue (due out December 15) will be in our next issue.

Before we go this month, let me welcome our new readers. WELCOME. Okay, enough. Plus let me thank the entire staff of CS. Bowdren suffered a waterbed flood at his estate just before deadline, Ron typed up his column "dead tired" after just returning from a posh New England vacation, Lederberg is still fighting his illness, Mike Terry patiently sat by the phone awaiting word if he needed to fill in for anybody (thanks again, T-man!), John Hitchcock for the amazing covers which seem to be getting better and better, Berkley, Whitehead & Scherer for working full time jobs, having lives and never missing a deadline, and Butch Bigelow, who despite being arrested 6 times in one day, still finds time to sneak into the warden's office and type up his column. THANKS GUYS!! I love you all!! Anyways, see ya next issue...I'M LOOOONG GONE!!!!



THE RAZOR'S EDGE

By Jimmy Berkley



Respect, admiration, anger and sympathy are just a few of the many emotions we all feel towards assorted professionals in the wrestling business, be it wrestlers, announcers, managers or sheet people. I had the opportunity to view some footage about 8 years old yesterday, namely various televised pieces of Eddy Mansfield and Jim Wilson exchanging views with other wrestling related people. Yeah I know, this subject is really outdated, dissected more than the TORCH dissects a PPV and so on but since I only ever saw the infamous 20/20 show from '84, these other shows projected a much more visual and also, unfortunately for Mansfield and Wilson, a more damaging blow to the actual credibility of what they had to say. The above mentioned emotions came in to play while I viewed the tape and I felt so strongly about the issues, I decided to write about it. Let me explain.

I consider myself open minded for 99.99% of all issues in the world (the .01% of surety is that GG Allin was the craziest son of bitch that ever sang a punk song but that's a whole different story and this is the wrong sheet for it, or is it?) and instead of developing a singular view on a two-sided issue, I prefer to think I have an opinion on both sides of the story (right now you're saying Berkley get to the fuckin' point already, sorry I know I ramble on but I can't seem to break the habit). In watching the 20/20 show, Mansfield and Wilson have a totally captive audience (the news crew and interviewer) with no verbal challenges or confrontations to tend with while discussing the "secrets" of pro wrestling. They both came off fairly well and other than the blading exhibition, neither really exposed much more than what most people, smart or mark, didn't already know. On the other hand, both of these guys failed to project themselves in the same or stronger light while in the presence of people with opposing views. On something called "America Talks Back", both Mansfield and Wilson confronted Lou Thez via video feed on a monitor. This turned into a fiasco where Thez finally left due to his claim of being talked over by the two studio guests. Mansfield addressed him by "Mr. Thez" and never got a real point across other than claiming Thez was in the same building in San Antonio when he says he was ripped off by Joe Blanchard after losing a hair match. Lou claimed to not have any knowledge of this and Wilson seemed to think he was doing a wrestling interview the entire time and tried hawking a t-shirt with his name on it. This is where I see both sides of the story in the same light. Although I respect Thez for protecting the business (it may sound corny but this was the man's livelihood) and understand why he denied pre-determined endings, etc., I lost respect for him because although he did knock Wilson big time (as far as I know, Wilson really was only a prelim guy) he should have and could have got on Eddy's good side immediately by acknowledging Eddy did draw houses at a certain time. Human psychology would instantly shifted Eddy's comments to be less threatening and maybe even dilute what he was trying to say worse than he did it on his own. Instead, Thez said that he was not aware of any drawing power or wrestling ability that Mansfield had. The worse thing about it was that both guys couldn't speak correctly or confront Thez with anything concrete to throw him off guard. Eddy began holding up ratings and photographs from late 70's and early 80's Apter mags, in an effort to prove his prior stature in the biz rather than speak clearly and factually about some of the real problems that existed then and still today in pro wrestling. An example is when Thez used Eddy's southern accent by saying Eddy was a "rassler" and Thez was a wrestler. Why Mansfield didn't immediately clarify the point of pronunciation of the word only was due to accents, not a real difference in the two, is beyond me. Instead, Eddy quietly sat there, allowed Thez to repeat the comment several times in addition to the show's host picking up on it and declaring to the TV viewers, there really is a difference between a "rassler" and a wrestler.

Another piece featured an old Morton Downey, Jr. talk show without Mansfield but with Jim Wilson and T-Bolt Patterson arguing it out with David Shultz, Dennis Carluzzo and Lou Albano. In this fiasco, Wilson was even more subdued on the solid subject matter, mostly because Shultz physically was intimidating him so bad, I felt bad for him. Patterson, who I personally like as a person, used the typical racism cry but was shot down when Shultz reminded him of his Omni walkout in '78 vs. Terry Funk over money. Carluzzo, God help this man, ranted and raved about the floor like a newly smartened fan trying "to protect the biz" in front of the boys. Shults and Albano blatantly denied using a blade or having knowledge of it. Wilson could easily have come back with more details about the fine, straight cuts, blood only coming from the forehead and the lack of stitches administered to most guys who bled like a pig back then, but he didn't. He went on to have his conversation extinguished by a glass of water thrown on him by Shults and then we listened to Larry Sharpe defend the honor of pro wrestling. I wanted to jump through the screen to assist both sides in offsetting the other's claim. Easy retorts to Eddy and Jim should have been "Why'd you wait until 1984 if this happened in 1974 (the homosexual advances)" but Shults would just cuss and call them liars instead. Listen closely, alot more inside terms were thrown back and forth and it was interesting how the crowd didn't pick up on it.

The racism issue that Claude Patterson raised is so tired I wanna puke when I hear it today. If JYD was white, the gimmick would never have gone over but Bill Watts still did it right? If you are black, spanish, oriental or white, your performance in this business depends on what will draw money and what region it'll do it in. Case closed. Did Ron Simmon's color factor into the world title around his waist? Personally, I say no. He was in the right place at the right time. Period. Teddy Long thinks racism is rampant. Gosh, Ted maybe you just didn't cut the mustard bud. This goes for all the pro-whites to. Who gives a shit that Damien Williams and Henry Watson got off. We know they beat the fuck outta the Reginald Denny dude, in fact beat him so goofy he thinks they didn't do it. So they got off and people say that's not justice. Justice? Justice did prevail because now Los Angeles isn't going through a loss of millions in another riot like we did when those dick head white cops beat up Rodney King. Oh don't worry, good ole Damien and Henry will fuck up again down the line, watch and see. Crack, robbery, whatever, it'll happen but not at the expense of another senseless riot.

As far as professional wrestling goes, there is always going to be bitching and moaning. I know wierd things go on with some involved. However, if everything was fixed and all the problems were mended, reading the sheets and keeping up with the inside dope would be as exciting as watching paint dry. Hell, what would become of this brutal piece of crap rag, CHAIRSHOTS? Hey Barry, is it really true that both Mike Lano and Mark Madden share the same copy of CHAIRSHOTS thru the mail and the pages are stuck together and it's not from the staples? Just wondering?

NERVE ENDINGS

BY PETE LEDERBERG

Thanks to all of you who in one way or another were anxiously awaiting another "regular" column from me, not just an interview. Speaking of which, Tom Nash has said that if anyone has any further questions that they want answered and/or question anything listed in his interviews, he'd be happy to personally answer them (in these pages of course!). Did anyone else wonder when they saw the letter from Robert Solari in the last CS about what his actual reaction would be had someone did start to push a HEEL rap character as he suggested? Robert has a comment on anything to do with any black in wrestling, and always complains like hell if the black is treated contrary to any of the politically correct doctrines. To my DKLA buddies, I never fully understood your Rush Limbaugh comparisons with my views before. Rush is now on locally here, right after Letterman on CBS, so I have finally seen his show, and can see it on a regular basis, so beware!

I loved the 1-2-3 Kid versus Pat Tanaka match recently on WWF Superstars. By the way, would anyone besides me like to see Bobby Heenan call a match with Tatanka vs Tanaka? Speaking of Tatanka, I still can't understand his mega-push as being undefeated (I know that's changed already). I've heard things about Jay Strongbow thinking that Tatanka does the Indian gimmick the way he likes it, but to me Tatanka sucks, and there are many other unknowns (and knowns) that are far more deserving of a push, not to mention an undefeated one. How many of you caught Randy Savage's "shoot" comments on Barry's favorite, Hulk Hogan, on Raw on 10/18? The Savage-Crush angle sure started out a lot like the Eddie Gilbert-Tommy Rich Memphis angle from 1984, didn't it? (I'm not trying to be Maddenesque and put myself over with this one). I haven't been up North for a while, but thought Jeff Jarrett could have used someone other than Garth Brooks in his interview to get national as opposed to regional heat. It's great to see Lawler's stuff getting over on a national level. I loved his giving the #1 sign while being carted off on the stretcher during Summerslam.

I was getting set to write about the overwhelmingly positive response to the UWFI pay-per-view by the hardcores in the sheets, and say that the hardcores must either be much more open minded than I would have thought, seeing that they also have been so favorable to Lucha Libre (which I assume to be almost the parallel opposite of UWFI) or that, heck, Dave Meltzer likes both, so the flock usually follows (which is the main wrestling gist to my think for yourself line), but of all people, lo and behold, Wade Keller had a good explanation in his BBL column in his 10/16 issue touching on it. I got another of Wade's 5 for \$5 offers, so I re-subscribed. His interview with Jerry Jarrett irked me in much of the way Barry mentioned in his last column and I'd like to reiterate that for him to make the comments about Lance Russell that he did really made me mad, as the truth about that story is a lot different than Jarrett described it. Lance had a recent health scare, and is doing ok so far. Let's hope for the best for one of the best!

I'll have my photos ready to start doing mail orders again shortly. I recently got all of Brian Berkowitz's negatives, so I'm incorporating his into the others I have. Brian has pix of the 1978 Superbowl of Wrestling from Miami's Orange Bowl (Superstar Billy Graham versus Harley Race, title versus title, ringside pix and press conference) along with the rest of the card, and great pictures from the early 70's to early 80's. To get my photo list, send \$1 to me at 2870 NW 55 Ave #2D/ Lauderhill, FL/ 33313. Please realize that that's my mom's address (she took care of me when I was at the worst part of my illness) and the most convenient place for me to get mail, so please send any obnoxious stuff to me at the Chairshots address c/o Barry and not to her address. Also, I have about 60-65 Japanese magazines and programs and an authentic Budokan 93 Excite Series baseball cap that I'm trying to sell for a friend of mine, and many old programs and magazines too. I'm still trying to figure out what to do with all of my video tapes too. Send a sase with an offer, suggestions, and/or for details. Until next time, take care, have fun and always remember to think for yourself!

A KNEE TO THE GROIN!

"IRRESPONSIBLE JOURNALISM? WHO GIVES A RAT'S ASS?!"

BY BUTCH BIGELOW

I'm hotter than poor Burt Reynolds' bony scalp after that two timing tramp, Loni Anderson, put Tabasco sauce in his toupee glue! Look at the way my sissy boy editor, Barry P. Rose, actually apologized for blowing that Jerry Jarrett WCW booker story! So what?! I enjoy reading unsubstantiated rumors and gossip about people, especially those I don't like, and I really don't give a damn if any of it is true or not! It's more fun to think the worst of people even if it turns out to be a big pack of lies. Hell, some of the best dirt turns out to be nothing but a crock of BS but wrestling fans are so dumb it doesn't make any difference to them, anyway! I am personally sick and tired of these wrestling "journalists" who actually think they have some kind of low grade "credibility" in the "publishing business" as if they were "real reporters"! That's why I don't write for sheets anymore. Just to prove my point, here are some rumors I have heard (or made up) which are probably true.

ITEM: The ubiquitous Dave Meltzer has once again made his mainstream presence known by authoring another wrestling related article in a newsstand publication, this time for **SASSY Magazine** entitled **"Hey Girls - Don't Let Those Nasty Forehead Blading Scars Ruin Your Senior Prom!"** In this piece, Dave offers helpful tips on the proper application of Silly Putty and mortuary makeup to cover up those nagging, job related blemishes.

ITEM: My own dim witted editor, Barry L. Rose, was recently congratulated by Ole Anderson for actually contributing something beneficial to the legitimate wrestling business! I don't know and I don't want to know! It's the end of an era.

ITEM: Everybody thinks Wade Keller is paying his college tuition with Torch profits but he's actually losing his pants on it. Due to complicated contractual loopholes, he must pay for the following out of his own pocket:

1. 2 tons of M & M's shipped by bulk into Alaska to support Carlie Gill's "Choco-rific" binge and purge habit.
2. 10,000 gallons of butterscotch flavored, liquid Ex-Lax for Mark Madden's legendary constipation (which explains a lot); as well as a myriad of subsequent plumbing problems when the vile stuff finally kicks in twice a year.
3. Financing for Bruce Mitchell's \$500 per weekly session **"I Am Not a Nerd, Honestly!"** encounter group featuring guest speakers - Michael Kinsley (Crossfire), Stuart Smalley (SNL) and John Denver - three of the biggest damn nerds in the country.

ITEM: Butch Bigelow (hey, that's me!) is actually a very troubled and confused individual who is struggling with latent homosexual tendencies stemming from his many childhood circle jerks with altar boys (who later became priests and have since been excommunicated). My mother had very mixed feelings about my awful secret when I finally told her. After running a gamut of emotions ranging from loathing to compassion, she was finally able to come to grips with my grisly revelation (at least partially) when she proclaimed to her neighbors **"I love my dead gay son!"** Now all you pabulum puking, bleeding heart liberals who wrote in to gripe about my first "Gay Bashing" column will have to love me, too! But in any event, please don't hate me because I'm beautiful!

Some pushy liberated chick I know keeps annoying me with obnoxious male bashing jokes. Here's the latest one she told me, which I don't think is funny at all. **"Why are men like parking spaces? All the good ones are taken and the only ones left are the handicapped!"** Har har hardy har har!

Hmmm...let's see...so far in my Chairshots columns I have insulted minorities, women, children, white trash, nerds, liberals, gays, straights, midgets, dwarves, wrestlers, wrestling fans, handicapped people, dyslexics, Canadians, Christians, at least a dozen Hollywood stars, my own mother, the Torch staff, my fellow columnists and the few friends I have left. I must be doing something right!

That's all the people care to know!

South Of The Border

The times, they are a changing in Mexico. For the vast majority of the year, Triple A was beating the EMLL in what could charitably be called a squash. In the last month though, the EMLL has finally showed signs of fighting back. For starters, they foiled Triple A's plan to ruin their anniversary show, which is traditionally their biggest of the year, by twice moving back the date of the show. Triple A had set up three big drawing house shows to run against them, hoping to take away from the gate. (Sounds a lot like WCW and the WWF in 1988). On the third week, Triple A had the Latin Lover vs Mocha Cota hair match to go against the big show when the EMLL pulled the rug out from under them by signing Cota. This left AAA with the much weaker three way hair match between Huichol, Misterioso, and El Vulcano to try to take away the EMLL's thunder. It didn't work. The EMLL drew a sellout while AAA did about a third of that. In addition to the big house, it was the best EMLL show I have seen in about a year. The Negro Casas vs La Fiera hair match was a 4.25 star classic, that was very much like a New Japan style bout. They also had Cota debut on the card, which of course was a direct shot at Triple A. Since then, MS1 and Rayo de Jalisco have both jumped back to the EMLL, which makes them appear much "better" in the public's perception. With the defections and the renewed popularity of Vampiro Casanova, who got a deafening pop at last Friday's Arena Mexico show, the EMLL appears finally ready to mount a fight, unlike WCW who seems to take the position of when the going gets tough, react like cowards.

All Japan Update

Who is that guy causing Dave Meltzer to continually pound the "star" key on his computer? Kenta Kobashi is no doubt the most talented male wrestler in the world today. In fact, I will even go as far as to say he is the most talented period. He has had an amazing year working in 5 star match after 5 star match. People raved about his April house show match against Stan Hansen, that only made it here via handheld tape. Then, the two had another phenomenal match that aired on TV in August. Later in the month, Terry Gordy's mystery "illness" forced him to give up his shot at Mitsuhiro Misawa's Triple Crown. Kobashi and Steve Williams were tabbed to wrestle for it. In a match that was easily Williams best and one of the best matches I have ever seen, Williams pinned Kobashi and got the shot at the title. Words to describe the match don't do it justice. Suffice it to say, it is Pro Wrestling at it's finest. Also airing in September was the return of Ted Dibiase to reform his tag team with Stan Hansen and win the Unified Tag Titles from Toshiaki Kawada and Akira Taue. This match was really weak. Dibiase did next to nothing and looked very out of place with these three. He just does not fit in with the super stiff All Japan style. Tsuyoshi Kikuchi finally got a big win at the 10/16 show when he pinned Takao Omori to win for his team, which also had Kobashi and Asako over Kawada, Taue, and Omori. Katuyuki said it was a great match. Also, Richard Slinger, Terry Gordy's nephew, got a big pin over Danny Kroffat on the same show. Kendall Windham is not over at all with the Japanese fans. Katuyuki calls him "cheap".

UWFI PPV

First let me answer the question for those who are wondering if the UWFI PPV was representative of the "Japanese Wrestling" that people are always talking about. No, it's not. All Japan, New Japan, All Japan Women et al are what people are talking about. UWFI is shoot style, as in they make it appear to be legitimate competition. And you know what? They do a pretty good job of it. Whether you like the style or not, they do make it realistic and interesting. And unlike a lot of other people, I have no problem with the announcers saying how their wrestling is "real." Is it any different than the banter that Jim Ross used to level at his future employer on WCW shows? Or the "We Wrestle" slogan? Of course not. Just because UWFI is shoot style, it is not a shoot. Their announcers are workers too.

The US comes to Japan: Michinoku Pro Wrestling

I got to see Michinoku Pro's first studio show. I assume that it airs under the Champ Forum name, since it had those graphics on the show. It was a lot like the USWA's weekly live program on WNC in Memphis in that there is a small crowd and it has the small studio feel. They shoot angles and have interviews on the show, much like a US promotion. And Wally Yamaguchi, whose name you see in the Observer reader's pages as the contact at Japan's MANIAX and has worked as a referee and announcer, is great as heel manager Mr. Toyota. He wears facepaint with dollar signs and gets as involved in the matches as Jim Cornette. Toyota, as manager of the Super Delphin, was great in his not wanting to be handcuffed to the ring during the rematch between Delphin and the Great Sasuke. The group works a hybrid Japanese/Lucha Libre style, and on the second show they even had shoot style wrestler Wellington Wilkins on working a shoot style match. It is a good example of how a promotion can successfully combine the best aspects of US and Japanese wrestling.

How Far Is Too Far?

As anyone who has read this column knows, I think the world of Kenta Kobashi. However, I am a bit worried that he is going too far in his bump taking. In his match against Steve Williams, he took some of the scariest looking bumps you will ever see on his head and neck. They looked to be very painful and even more dangerous. Back when Steve Sims was not MIA, returned phone calls, and was publishing his sheet, I used to give him correspondent report. During a 6 man match, Blue Demon Jr. took a very similar bump at the Sid Viciouslike paws of Gran Markus. I told Steve that I thought he snapped his neck, and sure enough, he did. At the last ECW tapings Sabu took more of his trademark psychotic bumps onto tables, floors, etc. This begs the question, How far is too far? We expect crazy things out of the gore groups like W*ING, FMW, and even ECW, but I hope the bumps that Demon and Kobashi took are not indicative of things to come. While I love realistic, stiff, well worked matches, I don't want to see any of the guys get paralyzed doing them.

*At the 10/15 New Japan show, the team of Jushin Liger and Chris Benoit beat Shinya Hashimoto and Masa Chono when Liger got the pin on Chono. Riki Choshu and New Japan rarely book endings without forethought, unlike the folks in Atlanta. It would appear that they finally have some kind of plans for Liger. It's about time. Until next time.....

SMOKY MOUNTAIN HOTSPOTS

BY TIM WHITEHEAD

I hate to say I told you so but. . . Wait a minute! Forget this false modesty crap! Let's start over.

I told you so. Several months ago there was lots of boo-hoo-hooing over the fact that numerous veteran wrestlers with name recognition (e.g., Stan Lane, Robert Fuller, Paul Orndorff) had left SMW, only to be replaced by less well-known or even unknown talent (such as Chris Candido, Tammy Fytch, Bobby Blaze, and the Bruise Brothers). The conventional wisdom was that SMW was lowering its standards and would suffer accordingly at the gate. However, I predicted that this talent turnover would turn out to be a blessing in disguise (I sound just like John McLaughlin on *The McLaughlin Group*, don't I?). You see, unlike WCW, which brings in "fresh young talent" such as The Equalizer (who lives up to his name by bringing everyone down to his level), The Colossal (fat-assed) Kongs, and The Cole Twins (1+1=0), SMW actually signed newcomers with talent. So instead of fans tuning in and saying, "The Shock Master?!!! Man, that guy sucks!" they tune in and see Jimmy Del Ray executing a picture-perfect moonsault. Thus, SMW has actually created some stars to carry the sport into the future. What a unique idea!

SMW's working relationship with the WWF deserves mixed reviews so far. When Jim Cornette first agreed to work with Titan, the possibility existed for SMW to come off looking "small time" and "regional" compared to the worldwide scope of Titan, Inc.. Fortunately, Cornette negotiated an equitable deal with Boss McMahon so SMW has held its own in the ring, and has even squeezed some positive comments regarding SMW out of McMahon, Bobby Heenan, and other WWF commentators. So the SMW-WWF marriage hasn't hurt SMW in the least. But it hasn't really helped, either. It's well-known that Cornette was hoping The Steiners would pop the gate when they appeared here to take on The Heavenly Bodies. But only in the small town of Barbourville, KY was there an improvement in attendance, with around 1,000 turning out instead of the usual 500-600. Turnout in SMW's flagship cities of Knoxville and Johnson City was pretty much identical to what they draw every month anyway, despite an enormous build-up for the Steiners vs. Bodies matches on TV. The reason The Steiners couldn't pop the house seems to be that SMW's fan base doesn't really care about the WWF. They like SMW precisely because it isn't the junk they've been force-fed by the major national wrestling promotions in recent years. So while the jury is still out on this, the early indications are that SMW's dealings with Titan will be a break-even proposition, but nothing more.

Returning to The Steiners for a moment, their matches against the Bodies were very good. A few people I talked to thought the presence of Arnold, the Steiners' pit bull, distracted from the action in the ring but I thought Arnold was great. Far from being a Benji or even a Matilda, Arnold was a Cornette-tracking, gonad-chomping war machine. What he lacked in size he more than made up in ferocity. Arnold missed leaving Tom Prichard singing soprano by a scant inch or so. And the look of abject terror on Jimmy Del Ray's face as he fled from the beast was worth the cost of admission even without the great match that followed.

Dirty White Boy's babyface turn has essentially been completed, and manager Ron Wright will be turning with him. Wright turned babyface once before, back in the late seventies during his first stint as a manager (no, he didn't have a wheelchair back then). He ended up getting pounded to a pulp by Don Carson and the Mongolian Stomper, as I recall. The Bruise Brothers are also turning face in response to Cornette's ridicule, heaped upon them for losing the tag belts to the Rock & Roll Express. The Moondogs (hell yeah!) are finally coming in, which will fill the void left in the heel ranks. Please, please, please let there be some of those Memphis-style chair-wielding brawls!

Constructive criticism dept.: There are too many screw job endings in SMW. It's not as bad as Dustyland by any means, but a few more clean finishes would be welcome.

Darryl Van Horne is the latest promising new addition to SMW. He sort of reminds me of the late Grand Wizard with his mysterious demeanor and claims of an Egyptian background. I haven't seen him work ringside yet (he claims to be bringing in a seven-foot-tall Egyptian prince who will revolutionize wrestling) but his early interviews have been sidesplitting. For instance, he claims to have studied necrophilia and parapsychology at the University of Cairo (I considered complaining about this but I didn't want to be accused of corpsophobia by Phil Donahue). Favorite Van Horne lines: "Bobby Blaze is an idiot! The man traveled to Las Vegas and spent all night in front of the roulette wheel trying to buy a vowel!" "I have excellent lawyers - They once got a sodomy charge against me reduced to tailgating!" You should've seen Bob Caudle's face on that one!

See ya next month! And don't forget, CHAIRSHOTS® will be publishing a special thirty page edition in December with the usual suspects churning out columns plus lots of special features. I'll try to explain how Johnson City, TN got to be a "wrestling hotbed" in a history of wrestling in this area.

CHAIRSHOTS MAILBOX

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CHAIRSHOTS WELCOMES ALL LETTERS, COMMENTS AND
CRITICISMS. ALL LETTERS ARE PRESUMED FOR PUB-
LICATION UNLESS REQUESTED OTHERWISE.

Dear Barry,
The torch has been passed. The douche bag award has finally been relinquished by the Donahue audience lady who did not care about the alleged WWF scandals because the whole subject of wrestling "is so tacky." Remember her? Her opinion was recently surpassed by Larry King's recent substitute host on his radio show, Bonnie Urbay. Hulk Hogan was her guest. Bonnie says "let me be totally frank", so you think here comes the inevitable obligatory fake question that everyone is used to dealing with. But NOOOO. Insted Bonnie asks "what do you say to people like me who say wrestling is revolting?" Hulk's answer was probably similar to what any of us would say-he goes REVOL-TING!!?? Ms. Urbay elaborates by saying "I don't like the spector of two big muscle guys throwing each other around the ring. It doesn't do anything for me." The way that Bonnie was offering to tell the audience that "big muscle guys" don't "do anything" for her leads one to question just what does "do it" for her. Could it be that she doesn't like "big muscle guys" because her husband is seen often in the company of "big muscle guys" at the local steam baths. After Bonnie accomplished her goal of delivering a SUCKER PUNCH to wrestling, Hogan gave a SHOOTKICK to Bruno Sammartino. Hulk said "nothing happened with him" and that after watching a best of Bruno tape that "Bruno couldn't lace up my boots."

HARRY WHITE
ST. LOUIS, MO.

Dear Mr. Rosenbloom,
I think that Vic Stanley had a pretty good idea in his letter in CS #11. You should not only dump Butch Bigelow, but also dump Pete Lederberg. Don't give him more space as Vic suggested. Please replace them with my favorite religious tag team of Brother George Maranville and Scott Teal. I'm sure that your readership will grow by leaps and bounds.

KURT KOSKY
SEASIDE, FLA.

Dear Barry,
Once again, the necessity of blatant propagandistic falsehoods spewed forth by Peter R. Lederberg has forced the DKLA to shine its bright beacon of truth onto the pages of CHAIRSHOTS and into the minds of its subscriber base, withering his deceptions like his

testicles wither at the sound of the DKLA name. On this occasion, Lederbutt directs his feeble delusions to a more personal end, attacking the character of this writer with inferrals of improprieties with noted Titan-employed deviants. Such sophomoric rumormongering begs repudiation, so here goes: 1) My name is D.H. Peligro, not D.K. as you erroneously reported. What are you doing with your back issues? Certainly a cursory glance of one would have saved you this embarrassment. 2) as far as the pages of this newsletter goes, D.H. Peligro is my real name. Outside CS may or may not be another story..And 3) You alluded to my real name as "the punchline to a Pat Patterson joke." Indeed? Well, to make things easier to follow for devotees of Patterson humor, let me state that my name, or "punchline" is definately not Mel Phillips, Steve Lombardi, or Pete Lederberg, eliminating 90% of all possible answers. Well, to quote your beloved baseball, Pete, "strike three... yer out!!" By the way, surely attentive CS readers have noticed Peter's newfound boldness in so far as engaging more stimulating, controversial dialogue, contrary to his well-known political bent? One wonders, if not for the ridicule bestowed on the inanity purveyed within Lederberg's writings by the DKLA, if we would still be subjected to column long candy-assed tributes to George Brett and the non wrestling like. On a side note, the DKLA is happy to announce the establishment of our splinter organization, Assholes Anonymous, in the Sunshine State of Florida. This covert base has been created to keep track of those endangering the liberties and sanities the DKLA so diligently fights to uphold. So Pete-ro, the next time you and the CS gang decide to patronize your favorite adult establishment, and should your attention be captured by a fetching lass in an advanced state of undress, watching you with a come hither look in her eye, remember that all is not as it seems. Is it a look from a devoted news-letter groupie-or subtle, yet intense scrutiny by a devoted AA lieutenant? Just a friendly warning from the minds of the DKLA-Assholes for the generation desrving them.

D.H. PELIGRO
DKLA HEADQUARTERS

(ED. NOTE: I know for a fact that Pete would never hang out in an establishment that would have Ron Lemieux, Jimmy Berkley or myself for clientele.)

DEADLINE FOR ISSUE #14 MAILBOX IS NOVEMBER 15!!!

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